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Forty-eighth session
Agenda items 100 and 137

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN SOMALIA II

Letter dated 2 December 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I am pleased to transmit herewith the press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, at the conclusion of the Fourth Humanitarian Conference on Somalia, convened at Addis Ababa from 29 November to 1 December 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the press statement circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 100 and 137.

(Signed) Fesseha A. TESSEMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia at Addis Ababa on 2 December 1993

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia wishes to make the following comments on the outcome of the Fourth Humanitarian Conference on Somalia, convened at Addis Ababa from 29 November to 1 December 1993.

The Transitional Government of Ethiopia has over the previous months been trying to help in the search for solutions to the problem in Somalia in close collaboration with the international community in general and the United Nations in particular. It is widely known that we have held, from time to time, different opinions on the best way forward, and, at times, our attempts at coordinating our activities with those playing the major role in Somalia have not been exactly easy. None the less, we continued to persevere, both in the efforts to assist in the search for peace in Somalia and in closely coordinating our activities with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM).

It was in the same spirit that we had approached the Fourth Humanitarian Conference on Somalia and we were gratified that, once again, the international community has shown its commitment to assist Somalia in its hour of need by holding the Conference.

At this Conference the international community made it clear that it is committed to assisting Somalis provided that they guarantee security in the districts, regions and, hopefully, in their country as a whole.

In this context, Ethiopia appreciates the determination of the donor community to help Somalia, and applauds its commitment to provide humanitarian assistance to any part of Somalia that guarantees stability and willingness to cooperate with all forces that are prepared to contribute towards that end, as well as fulfil certain other criteria related to the donor country's endeavours to provide assistance for relief and rehabilitation.

Ethiopia is convinced that the relief and rehabilitation assistance programme and the process of political reconciliation should proceed in parallel, but in mutually reinforcing tracks. It is the opinion of the Transitional Government that, in view of the difficulties that the political process has encountered, it would be unwise and inappropriate to mix the two, conceptually and institutionally, and doing so would endanger the success of the rehabilitation and relief programme and would also affect negatively the political process, rather than making a positive contribution to that effort.

It is with this in mind that the Ethiopian delegation insisted that the Conference:

(a) Refrain from calling for the creation of institutions that could be controversial and may not, in any case, be necessary for the success of the programme;

(b) Desist from putting additional burdens on UNOSOM and all its institutions whose task of promoting political reconciliation and of providing security for humanitarian assistance is already proving to be a very challenging one indeed;

(c) Explicitly mandate the international non-governmental organizations with the right experience to act on behalf of the donors in the day-to-day implementation of the relief and rehabilitation programme.

In this regard, while the Ethiopian delegation at the Conference was convinced that these concerns of Ethiopia were shared fully by the donor community, it is none the less obvious now that the declaration that came out at the end of the Conference does not fully and unequivocally address those concerns.

Hence, while Ethiopia shares fully the aims of the donor community, it is, however, of the conviction that the declaration in its present form, and as it stands now, is likely to leave room for misunderstanding and misinterpretation, and may lead to the failure of the programme even before it takes off the ground.

The Transitional Government of Ethiopia therefore calls on the relevant bodies to clarify these critical aspects of the declaration with a view to addressing the concerns raised by Ethiopia, concerns that Ethiopia believes are shared by the donor community.

In view of the very critical nature of the matter raised here for making progress in Somalia, the Transitional Government of Ethiopia wishes to make it known that Ethiopia will be unable to cooperate in the implementation of the programme until such a clarification is provided.

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Agenda items 123 and 33

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/48/L.28

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahbub KABIR (Bangladesh)

1. At its 27th meeting, on 2 December 1993, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/38) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/48/L.28. The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman.

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/48/SR.27).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided, without a vote, to inform the General Assembly that the adoption of draft resolution A/48/L.28 would give rise to expenditures amounting to $74,400 for general temporary assistance. An amount of $19,800 would be required for staff assessment (section 28), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). These amounts will be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates falling under the guidelines for the contingency fund to be submitted towards the end of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. In this connection the Fifth Committee concurs with paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's statement contained in document A/C.5/48/38.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda items 26 and 79
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 2 December 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of an intervention by Mr. Hassan A. Hassanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic, at the meeting of the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, at Rome on 30 November 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 26 and 79, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan before the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe at Rome on 30 November 1993

I would like to express my gratitude to the Italian Government for its hospitality and excellent organization of this round of the CSCE Council.

The main goal of my intervention is to draw the attention of my distinguished colleagues to the facts of aggression of the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan. The core of the conflict is that Armenia, being an aggressor-state, takes advantage of the ethnic group of Armenians living on the territory of Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and makes use of it as an instrument of separatism and annexation of our territory. It is obvious that aggression can not be and should not be left unpunished.

As a result of its aggression against Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, seeking to set up a certain " Great Armenia", i.e. to restore mythic two-thousand-year-old borders, has seized more than 20 % of Azerbaijani territories. As a result of "ethnic cleansing" policy conducted by Armenian armed forces more than 18 thousand people were killed, about 50 thousand got wounded or became disabled , 4 thousand are either taken prisoner or hostage, about one million of Azerbaijanians have become refugees in their own country; all the Azerbaijanians have been ousted from all the occupied territories being faced up with the threat of extermination; 88 thousand dwelling houses, more than one thousand economic enterprises, more than 250 schools, 250 medical establishments have been destroyed or burned down. The

damage caused to Azerbaijan is estimated at billions of US dollars. I would like to express the gratitude to the CSCE Member-States for the humanitarian assistance rendered to tens of thousands of our refugees.

The following facts testify of Armenia's full political and military involvement in its aggression against Azerbaijan. I would like to give only a few examples:

- on December 1,1989 a decision was passed by the Parliament of Armenia "On unification of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh" which has not up until now been cancelled and which contradicts the norms of the international law;

- in 1990 on the territory of Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan illegally were held the elections to the Parliament of Armenia, 12 members of which had been elected on the territory of Azerbaijan;

- the Parliament of Armenia passed a decision not to recognize any normative act where Nagorno Karabakh is rendered as a part of Azerbaijan;

- proclaiming its sovereignty Armenia illegally inserted in the Declaration the territory of Nagorno Karabakh of the Azerbaijan Republic;

- it is a member of the Parliament of Armenia that is now at the head of the so-called "Council for Defense" of Nagorno Karabakh;

- current Minister of Defense of Armenia is a person who until recently was in charge of military formations of Nagorno Karabakh separatists;

- it has been proved that the villages of the Kazakh region of Azerbaijan had been occupied directly from the territory of Armenia.

I have mentioned only some of undeniable facts and I would ask that they were reflected in the CSCE documents and taken into consideration by the CSCE Member-States.

With its behavior Armenia openly defies the international community nipping in the bud all attempts for peaceful political resolution of the conflict. Suffice to give just several examples. At the dawn of

implementation of Russian and Kazakhstan initiative on settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in February of 1992 the Armenian side seized the Azerbaijani town of Khodjaly where more than 800 peaceful civilians had been exterminated;

- after Azerbaijan and Armenia have become members of the UN and CSCE the Republic of Armenia ,playing the hypocrite and proclaiming its adherence to the Charter and Principles of these organizations, has seized the Azerbaijani city of Shusha;

- while the UN fact-finding mission was in the region to look into this issue the Lachin region of Azerbaijan was occupied by Armenia;

- during informal consultations of "The Five" in Geneva Armenia seized the Kelbajar region of Azerbaijan;

- in the wake of the visit to the region of the Chairman of the Minsk Conference Mr.Mario Raffaelli Armenia captured the Agdam region of Azerbaijan;

- following the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 853 demanding the unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan Armenia annexed the Fizuli region of Azerbaijan;

- in the course of the visit of the CSCE Chairman-in-Office Mrs.Margareta af Ugglas to the region Armenia occupied the Zangelan region of Azerbaijan;

- and, finally, most recently, on November 24, just several days after the signature of the last "Timetable of urgent steps" submitted by the Minsk Group, Armenia seized the zone of the Khudaferin bridge of Azerbaijan having taken control over 161 km of the frontier between Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I have given the examples of methods used by Armenia to torpedo the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions and earlier signed Timetables of the Minsk Group.

The principal direction of the Minsk Group activities was defined as the elimination of all the consequences of the Armenian

aggression. However, afterwards, the CSCE did not find enough political will and resoluteness in order to properly respond to the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and, moreover, followed lead of the Armenian scenario.

The more Armenian side occupies the Azerbaijani territories the more we feel pressure and the more we are demanded to make concessions. The more Armenia proceeds with "ethnic cleansing" the more we are proposed unacceptable decisions. The more Azerbaijanians become refugees, the more the demands of the UN SC on withdrawal of Armenian forces from the Azerbaijani territories fall into oblivion, as do the UN Charter and the CSCE Principles.

Having condemned in June of 1992 the seizure of Shusha and Lachin and having urged the immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied Azerbaijani territories, the Minsk Group has very soon lost sight of its own principal decisions. It started to talk about "the vital importance" of the Lachin region for the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh turning the blind eye to the fact that the so-called "humanitarian corridor" is still being utilized as the main thoroughfare of military deliveries from the territory of the Republic of Armenia. At that time Armenia did not find a common accord, but after it had occupied new territories of Azerbaijan it was decided to concede to Armenia. The scheme, thrusted today upon Azerbaijan, I mean the one elaborated by nine countries of the Minsk Group, in accordance with which the issues of Shusha and Lachin are being put off until the Minsk Conference, is unacceptable because such variant is aimed at exerting pressure on and blackmailing the Azerbaijan Republic in order to provide the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh with a non-constitutional status and, to be more correct, at elevating the level of the Armenian "interested party" of Nagorno Karabakh region to a full-right "party" in the negotiation process and debarring gradually the Azerbaijanian "interested party" from equal participation in the comprehensive settlement of the conflict. The Minsk Group illegitimately exaggerates the political significance of direct contacts of the Azerbaijani Government with the representatives of the Armenian community of Nagorno Karabakh, evaluating them as the recognition of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh as a "party to the conflict" thus complicating the contacts of the Government of a sovereign state with its citizens.

The representatives of the Armenian community of Nagorno Karabakh claim that their recognition as a "party to the conflict" is understood by them as the recognition of their "international-legal status". Comment is superfluous.

Ignoring the unreserved character of the demands of the UN SC resolutions the Minsk Group conditioned the withdrawal of troops of the Republic of Armenia by putting forward numerous and ambigious demands to the Azerbaijani side that are aimed at appeasing the ever-growing ambitions of the Armenian side.

Does that mean that one can apply the policy of "double standard" with respect to the member-states? Does that mean that the European Conference reserves for the separatist forces inside the states the right for choosing the means, including armed activities, for the realization of their goals? Finally, does that mean that the CSCE recognizes the right of rude force? Is not the tragic experience of the history of wars and conflicts enough to understand the inadmissible character of political games around the Declaration of Principles of the CSCE? Are there any guarantees that all this would not affect the interests of all countries and would not lead, in the long run, to the complete collapse of existing world order? We believe that the CSCE should take sides neither with Azerbaijan nor with Armenia. CSCE should respect its own Principles recognized by all member-states.

One has to rule out the biased interpretation and distortion of our position . Azerbaijan is often accused because of its "tough" position. I would like to throw light on the real situation in this issue.

The demand to give the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh the status of a "party" which contradicts the mandate of the Minsk Conference; the demand to ensure the residence in Nagorno Karabakh of 100 thousand of Armenians at the cost of the expulsion of 50 thousand of Azerbaijanians; the demand on unilateral demilitarization of all the Azerbaijani territories around Nagorno Karabakh; passing over in silence the fate of Shusha and Lachin and the utilization of these territories for the arms deliveries from Armenia are claimed as being a "necessary compromise" and constructive approach in peaceful settlement of the conflict.

On the other hand, our proposal concerning the respect of the status of Azerbaijanians of Nagorno Karabakh in the negociating process, the return of 50 thousand Azerbaijanian refugees to Nagorno Karabakh, the withdrawal of troops of the Republic of Armenia from all the occupied territories, the return of one illion of refugees to their homes and the restoration of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan are qualified as a "tough" approach and absence of flexibility.

I want to inform you that we are dealing here with obvious mistification of the international scale. The question is that many are inclined to consider the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh as having the status of a waring party taking the mistification for the reality. In reality, a small group of Armenians living in the mountainous region without proper industry and substantial ressources can not defeat the industrial country with the population of 7 million having occupied more than 20 percent of its territory. This is a complete military-political absurd.

We, certainly, highly appreciate the efforts of the Minsk Group and we would be ready to sign a Timetable facilitating the settlement of the conflict on the basis of respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Despite the difficult situation created as a result of the aggression of Armenia Azerbaijan continues to pursue the way of democratization of society, development of political pluralism, strengthening of the rule of law, human rights and, in particular, rights of national minorities.

We appeal to all CSCE Participating States to regard with understanding our problems, our needs, our anxiety for the fate of our state , our land, our people. I wish each country while reflecting on the ways of settlement of the bloody conflict could remember its own history, the vicissitudes of its own fate.

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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Letter dated 2 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you attached the Malta Statement of the World NGO Forum Launching the International Year of the Family, adopted by the World NGO Forum on Launching the Year, which my Government had the honour to host in Malta from 28 November to 2 December 1993 (see annex).

I shall be grateful to you if you would have the Statement circulated as an official document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109, particularly in the context of the launching of the International Year of the Family in the General Assembly, on 7 December 1993, pursuant to resolution 47/237 of 20 September 1993.

(Signed) Joseph CASSAR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Malta Statement of the World NGO Forum Launching the International Year of the Family

The World NGO Forum Launching the International Year of the Family, held at Valletta from 28 November to 2 December 1993 and attended by over 1,000 participants from nearly 100 countries,

Taking note of the overwhelming support for the Statement of the International Non-Governmental Organizations on the International Year of the Family (IYF) 1994, presented to the World NGO Forum and signed by 58 international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, 25 other international non-governmental organizations, 13 regional non-governmental networks and 105 national and local organizations from 40 countries,

In the spirit of solidarity and consensus,

Endorses the Statement, as attached, and

Designates it as the Malta Statement of the World NGO Forum Launching the International Year of the Family.

APPENDIX

Statement of International Non-Governmental Organizations on the International Year of the Family 1994

We, the undersigned international non-governmental organizations,

1. Welcome the launching of the International Year of the Family and the related event, the World NGO Forum in Malta, and are confident that the deliberations at the Forum will assist in creating a world-wide International Year of the Family movement. Recalling the active contributions of the non-governmental organization sector in the preparations for the International Year of the Family, the global meeting in Malta is a further expression of the efforts and potential of the non-governmental community at all levels in working for and with families;

2. Recognize families as intrinsically self-reliant units in society, which can, even in adverse external circumstances, regulate their own internal affairs and maintain successful and harmonious relationships;

3. Advocate policies seeking to empower families as basic social groups, in order to provide continuity, security and dignity to families and their individual members in the light of widespread, constant and rapid changes resulting from the interactions between peoples and their environment;

4. Affirm that families as the fundamental group units of society are entitled to a maximum of protection and assistance to fulfil their roles for the well-being of the individual members and society, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the relevant declarations, principles and resolutions;

5. Reiterate and commit ourselves to the principles and objectives of the International Year of the Family, underlining that stable families are main agents of sustainable development. Such a development depends largely on the social, emotional, spiritual, cultural and political maturity of all family members. In this context, recognition of families demands a comprehensive approach to issues such as redistribution of global resources, eradication of poverty and assuring education and health for all;

6. Recognize the diverse forms and functions of families around the world, on condition that they are fully consistent with the fundamental human rights. The International Year of the Family is of special relevance in promoting concepts of families and intra-familial relationships that will allow the actual enjoyment of these rights, with special emphasis on gender equality and the rights of minor children;

We, the undersigned international non-governmental organizations,

7. Urge Governments to support the establishment and/or extension of national coordinating bodies for the International Year of the Family in order to develop concrete action plans at the national, local and community levels, taking into consideration the capacities and self-help potential of families themselves and of the non-governmental organizations working at the grass-roots level;

8. Request Governments to formulate family-sensitive policies, promoting self-reliance and participation of families, taking into consideration the aspirations and expectations of families themselves. In this regard, a family-friendly society, specific economic and ecological measures and recognition of the contributions of families in the social, cultural and economic fields are indispensable;

9. Appeal to Governments to consider special joint action with non-governmental organizations in such fields as: evaluation of social programmes and their impact on the family; practical research to identify data, articulate family issues and suggest solutions; study of gender issues and identification of measures to ensure equality between males and females of all ages; enhancement of a positive and objective image of family life in the media; reconciliation of professional life and employment with family obligations; education for family life; family health issues; assistance to families living in extreme poverty; help to refugee and displaced families, including their relationships with their host country and country of origin; development of support and counselling services to families and family members in difficulty or at risk;

10. Invite Governments to support and join non-governmental initiatives and plans of family movements to celebrate 15 May of each year as the International Day of the Family;

11. Request that "family" should be a specific topic in relevant national and international reports on social issues;

12. Urge Governments to consider the role and function of families and their capacities and needs in the forthcoming meetings of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development. To ensure implementation of the International Year of the Family plans and activities, family should also be considered in the context of programmes developed for the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the World Summit for Social Development (1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995);

13. Appeal to Governments and the United Nations to undertake adequate follow-up measures to the International Year of the Family and to enter into an ongoing process of building a family-friendly society;

14. Request that a declaration on the rights and responsibilities of families be identified as a specific goal in the follow-up to the International Year of the Family;

In turn and in conformity with our own respective aims, experiences and competences we, the undersigned international non-governmental organizations,

15. Plan to explore areas where new and creative actions can be developed to support family resilience and to emphasize the significance of family life for the benefit of its members, thereby empowering them to master their everyday situations and to make decisions on their future;

16. Intend to continue assuming the responsibility for individualized and flexible services for families, reviewing and revising such assistance programmes regularly by involving families in order to respond most effectively to their needs and expectations;

17. Continue to review our role as advocates and mediators in representing family strengths and family concerns to politicians, media, educational authorities, employers, employees, specialized organizations and institutions concerned with children, youth, women, men, elderly, disabled, dispossessed and so on;

18. Hope to develop a new culture of partnership and new patterns of negotiation and cooperation at the national and international levels, promoting formal and informal networks and coalitions to fulfil our vital functions in the interest of families. In doing so, a major emphasis will be placed on effectiveness, transparency and accountability of family-oriented non-governmental organization operations.

In conclusion, we, the undersigned international non-governmental organizations, look with confidence upon the dawn of the International Year of the Family. We subscribe to its ultimate objective, emphasizing the recognition of values such as caring, sharing, solidarity and responsibility, mutual respect and tolerance, in order to promote the "smallest democracy at the heart of society" in its unique contribution to the achievement of durable peace in the world.

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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY
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MEDITERRANEAN REGION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 2 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter, dated 2 December 1993, containing the statement made by His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which assembled in Rome: the statement was read out by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the text of the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 77, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI

ANNEX

Statement of His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

It is a great pleasure for us to address the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, united for their fourth session.

We welcome, for more than one reason, the decision of your distinguished body to include Morocco, to a greater extent, in its different activities and, in particular, at the ministerial conference.

Morocco, which is actually very close to Europe, has a permanent interest in that continent and is greatly concerned about the changes occurring there. Moreover, it maintains strong and diversified ties with the majority of the European countries, of which the Mediterranean is the main carrier.

Modern Morocco is the result of an intermixing, peaceful or hostile contacts, and political, cultural and intellectual contributions, primarily from the different points of the Mediterranean which have shaped its landscape and fashioned its philosophy.

Nature has also intended for Morocco, together with Spain, to be the guardian of the Strait of Gibraltar, the key to the Mediterranean. A strategic spot of the utmost importance, the Strait has also been the starting point of the discovery and the contact between different continents. The influence of the mare nostrum, cherished by the Latins, and the legacy it has left us over time have been the eternal concern of countless intersected civilizations.

However, the Strait of Gibraltar is also synonymous with responsibility as regards security, particularly in the Western Mediterranean. Despite its position at the extreme western tip of the Mediterranean, Morocco continues to be concerned about the entire region, which it views as indivisible. It is from this point of view that we have always maintained a particular and continued interest in the eastern part of the region, a troubled area if ever there was one.

Since the end of the Second World War the international community has witnessed, at times powerless, acute tensions, direct conflicts and upheavals which are a source of instability in the region and a matter of concern throughout the world.

This is why we have continually advocated dialogue and settlement of conflicts by peaceful means, in all circumstances and regardless of whom we are addressing. Thus, armed with this philosophy, Morocco supports the peace process under way in the Middle East and continues to give it the priority it deserves.

We also nourish the hope that with the efforts and support of all involved, we will reach a comprehensive and fair solution for all of the countries of the region.

The Mediterranean could then once again become a traditional place of interchange, interpenetrations and movements of all kinds which have made it so rich.

Yet, it would be an illusion to believe that peace in the Middle East and in the Balkans would alone make it possible to reach that goal. Parallel efforts must also be devoted to addressing the increasing and ponderous disparities that exist throughout the Mediterranean.

The profound disproportions between the two coasts, the cultural gaps which have led to today's mutual incomprehension, the contrasts of all types have assuredly engendered a range of problems, all of which, however, are elements of instability. These problems must be corrected immediately, not as they relate to the current situation, but at their very origin, namely the unequal development in the Mediterranean region.

We must bear in mind that today more than ever before, the established interdependence of interests and economies calls for a continual and renewed search for new avenues of dialogue and cooperation. Then we will be able to give full meaning to the expression: Mediterranean, Lake of Peace.

Our hopes for peace, security, harmony, development and understanding are not overambitious, but they do require true collective awareness and the development of far-reaching joint action.

Therefore, the Kingdom of Morocco invites all countries bordering the Mediterranean and all others, which for one reason or another take interest in the future of this sensitive region, to meet on its soil so as to reflect together on these various issues and crucial problems that we face.

It would be an honour for Morocco to host such a conference at the ministerial level. The specific objectives and formats of such a conference could be determined through appropriate consultations.

In anticipation of this meeting, that we hope will occur in the near future, we wish you the greatest success in your work.

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and 175

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; ENVIRONMENT; DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

EMERGENCY ACTION TO COMBAT LOCUST INFESTATION IN AFRICA

Letter dated 2 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the press release issued following the meeting of the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region, held at Algiers on 22 and 23 November 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this press release circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 79, 91 (d), (e), (f) and 175.

(Signed) Ramtane LAMAMRA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Press release issued following the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region, held at Algiers on 22 and 23 November 1993

As a result of an initiative presented by President Ali Kafi, Chairman of the High Council of State to his counterparts, the Heads of State of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, a meeting was held at Algiers on 22 and 23 November 1993, bringing together:

Algeria: Mr. Mohamed-Salah Dembri, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

Burkina Faso: Mr. Salif Diallo, Minister, Representative of the President of the Republic;

Chad: Mr. Ali Djalbord Diard, Minister for the Interior and Security;

Mali: Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Minister for Foreign Affairs, for Malians Living Abroad and for African Integration;

Mauritania: Mr. Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;

Niger: Mr. Abdourahmane Hama, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;

Senegal: Mr. Mustapha Niasse, Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and for Senegalese Living Abroad.

During their stay, the Ministers were received by President Ali Kafi, Chairman of the High Council of State, who reaffirmed Algeria's profound attachment to African unity and integration and its keen interest in promoting harmonious relations, brotherhood and understanding among the peoples of the region.

The Ministers were also received by Mr. Redha Malek, member of the High Council of State and Head of Government, who stressed that Algeria would make every effort to strengthen cooperation in all fields among the countries and peoples of the region so that they might attain their shared goals of development and greater well-being while maintaining stability and security.

The Ministers welcomed the opportunity afforded by the meeting to extend the dialogue between and concerted action by their countries, and agreed to work towards enlarging the framework thus established so as to include all countries in the region. They also emphasized that the meeting was fully in keeping with the principles and goals of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and represented a qualitative contribution to the promotion of unity, solidarity, good-neighbourliness and cooperation among all African States.

At the meeting, the Ministers assessed in depth the situation in the Sahelo-Saharan region, a region facing many challenges in a difficult international climate.

The Ministers strongly emphasized the need to strive to maintain stability and security both within their respective countries and throughout the region. They regarded that as a prerequisite for success in their national construction and development endeavours and for maintaining and consolidating the prevailing spirit of good-neighbourliness, harmony and cocperation enjoyed by the Sahelo-Saharan region.

They reaffirmed, in that connection, their countries' commitment to maintaining national unity, territorial integrity and State sovereignty, to the policies of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect, to observance of the principle of the inviolability of the borders inherited from colonization, and to the principle of the equality of States in international relations, while also reaffirming their rejection of all forms of foreign interference.

The Ministers welcomed, in that connection, the conclusion on 11 April 1992 of the National Pact for the Re-establishment of Peace, Brotherhood and National Unity in Northern Mali. They noted with great satisfaction the determination of all Malians to achieve all the goals laid down in the peace agreement. They also called on the international community as a whole to provide the necessary material and financial support for implementation of the provisions of the agreement, whose complete success depended on bringing about an improvement in the standards of living of the populations of the Malian regions in question.

The Ministers welcomed the determination to bring about national reconciliation and to achieve a negotiated, peaceful settlement shown by the parties involved in the fratricidal conflict in the north-western region of the Niger. They expressed support for and voiced encouragement in respect of that course of action, which represented the only means of re-establishing peace and harmony for the benefit of the people of the Niger as a whole and for the benefit of the entire region.

The Ministers welcomed the holding in Chad of the Sovereign National Conference, which represented an important milestone on the path towards peace, national reconciliation and stability.

The Ministers participating in the meeting reaffirmed the position stated by the Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OCI), held at Dakar in December 1991, as well as at the OCI ministerial meeting held at Karachi in April 1993, with respect to solidarity among and concerted action on the part of States members to safeguard the religious values upon which OCI was based.

The Ministers rejected all attitudes and all forms of conduct not in keeping with the spirit of the relevant provisions of the charters of OAU and OCI. They voiced their full solidarity with Governments facing problems relating to the destabilization of national unity and the misuse for political purposes of the noble values on which their societies were based.

The Ministers affirmed their Governments' determination to strengthen coordination and cooperation in order to maintain security and stability in the Sahelo-Saharan region.

The Ministers stressed that the steady deterioration in the terms of trade and the inequality in international economic relations, on the one hand, and the burden of foreign debt, on the other, constituted an obstacle to, among other things, their development efforts.

The Ministers reaffirmed their Government's conviction that the strengthening of South-South cooperation and the development of North-South cooperation would improve the economic outlook for each of their countries. They also welcomed the progress made by the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) towards their consolidation and integration, and undertook to work for the establishment of cooperation among those entities, in accordance with the Abuja Treaty.

Bearing in mind climatic conditions in the Sahelo-Saharan region, the Ministers agreed to coordinate action at all levels to mobilize support on the part of the international community with respect to desertification control and action to combat locust infestation, with a view to protecting the environment.

The Ministers undertook, furthermore, to work with firm resolve towards developing trade, through fairs and meetings on economic issues, and to strive to strengthen cultural ties. In the same spirit, they reaffirmed their resolve to complete the Trans-Sahara Road within the framework of the strengthening of the inter-African road network. Accordingly, they agreed to appeal for external funds for the completion of that major trunk road.

The Ministers reaffirmed the resolve of their respective States to pursue and strengthen dialogue, concerted action and cooperation in the region as a whole. In that connection, they stressed that their meeting at Algiers represented the beginning of a meetings process at levels to be determined on the basis of the goals set and the procedures laid down on that occasion to promote harmonious relations and solidarity among all the peoples of the region. They agreed to pursue and expand their consultations with a view to setting up appropriate machinery for the implementation of and follow-up to the decisions adopted at the Algiers meeting.

The Ministers expressed their sincere gratitude to the people and Government of Algeria for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality extended to them and to the delegations accompanying them, and expressed the desire to see that fraternal country continue to develop in peace, security and stability.